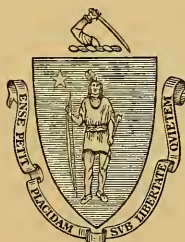


TENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES.

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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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*To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

The Board of Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation in the United States submits this its tenth annual report.

The Board in its previous reports, all of which have been printed as public documents, has given an outline of the history of the movement for uniform legislation, with an account of the origin, growth, and work of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; also an outline of the legislation in Massachusetts creating and continuing the Board of Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation in the United States, with the names of the members of the Board and their years of service, and a statement of what they have done and what they have attempted to do.

The work of the members of the Board divides itself into two distinct parts: —

*First.* — As members of the conference they assist in preparing uniform laws to be recommended for adoption in the several States. This work is done not only at the annual session of the conference, usually held in August of each year,

but is also done throughout the year by them as members of committees appointed to draft uniform laws on various subjects.

*Second.* — In Massachusetts they do considerable work in introducing uniform laws and recommending their enactment by the Legislature.

The work done is laborious, and demands a good deal of time and mental effort. It is rendered without any money compensation.

The benefits derived from the work done are enjoyed not only by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts but also by the other States, which appreciate the value of uniform acts and show their appreciation by making the same a part of their laws.

Of the twenty or more uniform laws framed by the conference and recommended for adoption, Massachusetts thus far has enacted nine, viz.: —

Uniform negotiable instruments act.

Uniform sales act.

Uniform warehouse receipts act.

Uniform stock transfer act.

Uniform bills of lading act.

Uniform foreign wills act.

Uniform desertion act.

Uniform child labor act.

Uniform marriage evasion act.

“By their fruits ye shall know them,” says Holy Writ. Judged by this text the uniform laws thus far adopted in Massachusetts have justified the wisdom of the several Legislatures which have enacted the same.

In so far as the Legislature fails to enact the uniform laws which are introduced and recommended by the Board, just so far the Commonwealth fails to derive benefit from the work of the conference and of this Board.

The members of the Board are public officials appointed by the Governor. Their expenses are paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth. They have no private interest to subserve in what they do, but act wholly for the public welfare.

In introducing uniform laws for enactment they are acting in performance of their official duty. It is no part of their work to lobby for the passage of the bills introduced. If they attend before the proper legislative committees it is only for the purpose of furnishing any information needed for a proper understanding of the purpose and scope of the laws in question.

#### DOINGS OF THE CONFERENCE IN 1918.

The last session of the conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio, August 22 to 26, 1918. The time was largely devoted to considering the draft of a uniform conditional sales act, the draft of a uniform fraudulent conveyances act, the draft of a uniform occupational diseases act, and the draft of a uniform compulsory work act.

Some time was devoted to a uniform incorporation act and to a division of the uniform divorce act into two parts.

#### *Officers of Conference, 1918-19.*

W. H. Blount, Pensacola, Fla., *President*.

Hugh H. Brown, Tonopah, Nev., *Vice-President*.

W. O. Hart, New Orleans, La., *Treasurer*.

Manley O. Hudson, Columbia, Mo., *Secretary*.

The members of the conference were entertained at a dinner given by A. V. Cannon, Esq., a member of the conference living in Cleveland, and Mr. Blount, the president of the conference, was invited to deliver an address before the Ohio Bar Association on the subject of uniform laws and the history and work of the conference.

The uniform conditional sales act and the uniform fraudulent conveyances act, having been considered for several years, were completed and approved, and recommended for adoption by the several States.

#### DOINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1918.

Your Board at the last session of the Legislature recommended the enactment of the uniform partnership act and the uniform limited partnership act. The judiciary com-

mittee reported adversely on both bills, although no one appeared to oppose either, and the passage of the bills was urged by a committee of the Massachusetts Conveyancers Association and by others. The statutes of the Commonwealth are being compiled, and these laws we think should now be adopted and included in the new revision.

#### LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED.

Your Board recommends the enactment by the coming Legislature of four uniform acts, viz.:—

- The uniform partnership act.
- The uniform limited partnership act.
- The uniform conditional sales act.
- The uniform fraudulent conveyances act.

All of these laws, like most of the uniform laws, will be largely a codification of existing laws, but the first of them, viz., the partnership act, will improve the law of Massachusetts by providing clearly as to the title to partnership real estate and its devolution upon the death of a partner. The second of them, viz., the limited partnership act, will be a very valuable addition to the existing law, as it will greatly facilitate the employment of capital in partnership enterprises. The third of them, viz., the conditional sales act, will give to Massachusetts a body of law which already exists in many other States, and is much needed here. The fourth of them, viz., the fraudulent conveyances act, will serve to clarify the existing law and bring it into harmony with the law of the other States which adopt the act.

Your Board also recommends an act continuing the Board for another period of five years, the name of the Board to be shortened so as to read "Commissioners on Uniform State Laws." The act establishing the Board was chapter 381 of the Acts of 1914. By this act an expenditure of not exceeding \$3,000 was authorized. The total expenditures of the Board for the five years covered by the act have amounted to \$2,874.11. The Board will ask for an appropriation of \$3,000 for the coming five years.

## EXPENDITURES OF THE BOARD.

Mar. 20, 1918, Samuel Williston, traveling and other expenses,	\$33 28
Mar. 27, 1918, Wright & Potter, printing annual report, .	44 20
Apr. 18, 1918, Samuel Williston, traveling and other expenses,	26 47
Mar. 25, 1918, contribution toward expenses of conference of commissioners, . . . . .	100 00
Oct. 3, 1918, Hollis R. Bailey, traveling and other expenses, .	173 73
Oct. 3, 1918, Samuel Williston, traveling and other expenses,	110 98
Oct. 3, 1918, Joseph F. O'Connell, traveling and other ex- penses, . . . . . ; . . . . .	113 88
	<hr/>
	\$602 54

HOLLIS R. BAILEY, *Chairman*.

SAMUEL WILLISTON.

JOSEPH F. O'CONNELL.